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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended): A method for processing an image, comprising:
capturing a digital image;
dividing the captured image into a plurality of image segments;
performing image processing on each of the plurality of image segments; [and]
storing each of the plurality of processed image segments on a persistent storage medium; and
upon completion of storing of respective image segments, stitching together the image segments within the persistent storage medium to reconstruct the captured digital image separately after said step of performing image processing on said image segment has been completed on the respective image segment.
2. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the performing step act comprises performing image processing on each of the plurality of image segments in pipeline stages.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the performing step act is being performed on a first image segment when the storing step act is being performed on a second image segment.
5. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the dividing step act comprises dividing the image into a plurality of image segments that overlap one another.

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6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~[[6]]~~, wherein the stitching step act comprises stitching the plurality of image segments together sequentially following the performing step act.

8. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein one of the pipeline stages is divided into at least two parallel processing stages.

9. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the performing step act comprises performing at least a portion of the image processing in at least two parallel image processing stages.

10. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for ~~performing the steps comprising:~~

causing a digital image device to capture a digital image;

causing the captured image to be divided into a plurality of image segments;

causing image processing to be performed on each of the plurality of image segments; and

causing each of the plurality of processed image segments to be stored on a persistent storage medium, and as the processed image segments are stored on the storage medium stitching the respectively stored image segments together to restore the image separately as each of the processed image segments arrives at the storage medium.

11. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium according to claim 10, having further computer-executable instructions for performing the step act of causing the image processing to be performed on each of the plurality of image segments in pipeline stages.

12. (Cancelled)

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13. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium according to claim 10, having further computer-executable instructions for performing the step act of causing the image processing to be performed on a first image segment when a second image segment is being stored on the storage medium.

14. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium according to claim 10, wherein said step act of causing the captured image to be divided into a plurality of image segments includes causing the image to be divided into a plurality of image segments that overlap one another.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium according to claim 10 [[15]], having further computer-executable instructions for performing the step act of causing the plurality of image segments to be stitched together comprising causing the plurality of image segments to be stitched together sequentially.

17. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to claim 11, wherein one of the pipelines stages is divided into at least two parallel processing stages.

18. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium according to claim 10, having further computer-executable instructions for performing the step act of causing image processing to be performed includes causing at least a portion of the image processing to be performed in at least two parallel image processing stages.

19. (Currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

an image sensor that captures a digital image;

a persistent storage medium; and

a processor that divides the captured image into a plurality of image segments, [and] performs image processing on each of the plurality of image segments, stores the image segments on the persistent storage medium, and as respective image segments are

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stored stitches such segments together in connection with regenerating the captured digital image ; and

~~— a storage medium that stores each of the processed image segments separately as each of the processed image segments arrives at the storage medium.~~

20. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the processor is arranged to perform the image processing of the plurality of image segments in pipeline stages.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the processor is arranged to perform at least a portion of the image processing in at least two parallel image processing stages.

24. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
storing image file information, wherein the image file information corresponds to the plurality of image segments for a stored image; and
updating the image file information that has been affected by the step act of performing image processing on any one of the plurality of image segments corresponding to the stored image.

25. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 24, further comprising modifying at least one of the stored plurality of image segments that has been affected by the step act of performing image processing on any one of the plurality of image segments corresponding to the stored image.

26. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium according to claim 10, further comprising computer-executable instructions for ~~performing the steps of:~~

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storing image file information on the storage medium, wherein the image file information corresponds to the plurality of image segments for an image stored on the storage medium; and

updating the image file information that has been affected by image processing performed on any one of the plurality of image segments corresponding to the stored image.

27. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium according to claim 26, further comprising computer-executable instructions for ~~performing the step of~~ modifying at least one of the plurality of image segments stored on the storage medium that has been affected by image processing performed on any one of the plurality of image segments corresponding to the stored image.